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January 27, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

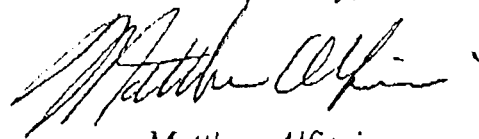
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The intention of this letter is so that I may go on record as being a staunch supporter of the proposed agreement that was reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. The litigation between these two has gone on for long enough, more than three years actually. It is time to put this issue to rest and move on.

The settlement actually goes further than Microsoft would have liked, but they decided to settle because it was in the best interests of the IT industry and the American economy. The settlement mandates that Microsoft make future versions of the Windows operating system to include a feature that makes it much easier for computer makers and consumers to remove Microsoft software programs from Windows and then replace it with non-Microsoft software. This completely opens the industry up to much more competition, and the companies producing the competing software will need to deliver a "Grade A" product to the market, or people will simply not buy it.

Everything is now in place for a stronger IT industry and a healthier economy. I support this settlement because it looks out for everyone's best interests. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Alfieri', with a stylized, cursive script.

Matthew Alfieri